AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting water soluble particulate starting material with a liquid to form a mixture; and
subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated, wherein the particulate starting material is fully water soluble.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of isolating a fraction of unbroken or whole particles having a higher average particle strength than the particulate starting material.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 comprising:

(a) providing a water soluble particulate starting material to be improved;

(b) providing a liquid;

(c) subjecting the water soluble particulate starting material and liquid to high shear treatment wherein the amount of liquid added and the high shear rate is adjusted as to substantially avoid agglomeration of particulate starting material; and

(d) separating a desired fraction of particles, wherein the desired fraction of particles obtained by separation has a higher average particle strength compared to the same fraction obtained from the particulate starting material provided in (a).

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is characterised by having a particle size of at least 50 μm.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of at least 100 μm.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of at least 200 μm.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is characterized by having a particle size of less than 800 µm.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said particulate starting material has a density of at least 1.3 g/cm^3.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said particulate starting material has a density of at least 1.5 g/cm^3.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is granules comprising an active compound.

Claim 11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the active compound is an enzyme.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material is selected from the group of salt and sugar.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is water or oil.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is aqueous.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is a saturated solution of one or more of the compounds present in the particulate starting material.

Claim 16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein salt, carbohydrates, binders, fibres, fillers, or other conventional coating materials are added to the liquid.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the high shear treatment performed in a high shear mixer and the applied shear is in the range of 0.5 and 3 s^{-1}.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of drying a high shear treated particulate material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate starting material and liquid are exposed to high shear until at least 5 % of the particles are destroyed or broken down to a size outside the size distribution of the particulate starting material.

Claims 21-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 85% of the un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 90% of the un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 95% of the un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 98% of the un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting water soluble enzyme granule starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of $0.5s^{-1}$ to $3.0s^{-1}$, wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated

enzyme granules in the water soluble enzyme granule starting material remains un-agglomerated, wherein the starting material is fully water soluble.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising isolating a fraction of particles comprising unbroken or whole particles from the enzyme granule starting material.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the fraction is a selection of enzyme granules having a diameter of 300 μm to 600μm.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting a water soluble starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of $0.5s^{-1}$ to $3.0s^{-1}$, wherein more than 80% of the starting material remains un-agglomerated, and wherein the starting material is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical granules, enzyme granules, fertilizer granules, salt particles, sugar particles, and carbohydrate particles, wherein the particulate starting material is fully water soluble..

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the particle material is salt particles, carbohydrate particles, and combinations thereof.

Claim 36. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition comprising:

(a) fractioning a water soluble particulate starting material to a size above 300 micrometers;

(b) providing a liquid;

(c) subjecting the water soluble particulate starting material and liquid to high shear treatment until at least 5% of the particulate starting materials are destroyed or broken down to a size below 300 micrometers;

(d) separating a desired fraction of particles wherein the desired fraction of particles obtained by separation has a higher average particle strength compared to the same

the particulate material provided in step (a); wherein more than 80% of the particulate starting materials in step (c) are un-agglomerated, and wherein the starting material is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical granules, enzyme granules, fertilizer granules, salt particles, sugar particles, and carbohydrate particles, wherein the particulate starting material is fully water soluble material.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the desired fraction of particles is characterized as unbroken or whole particles having a higher average particle strength than the particulate starting material.

38. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting fully water soluble particulate starting material with a liquid and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the particles in the particulate starting material remain un-agglomerated.

39. (Canceled)